

Archaeological monitoring at Knights Manor, East Lane, Dedham, Essex, CO7 6BB

April 2022



by Laura Pooley

figures by Laura Pooley and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Matt Perou

commissioned by the homeowner

NGR: TM 06134 32234 (centre)

Planning ref.: 211414

CAT project ref.: 2022/04c

ECC code: ECC4721

OASIS ref.: colchest3-507816



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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CAT Report 1819

July 2022

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Knights Manor, East Lane, Dedham during groundworks for an extension to the garage. Set within the grounds of an early 17th-century Grade II* listed timber-framed house, the only features uncovered were an undated stakehole and tree-throw.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at Knights Manor, East Lane, Dedham on 28th April 2022. The work was commissioned by the homeowner and took place during groundworks for an extension to the garage (built in 2015) for a new gym and garden store.

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Simon Wood advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Monitoring*, written by Simon Wood (CBCPS 2021) and detailing the required archaeological work, and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by John Newman Archaeological Services in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS.

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER MCC/DCC/ECC numbers, accessible for viewing via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

Knights Manor is listed as a 16th-century Grade II* listed timber-framed house (NHLE 1273808; MCC3903). However, a historic building survey carried out in 2013 concluded that the building dates from c 1620 and that much of its present appearance is the product of an extensive Mock Tudor restoration in the 1930s (MCC3068).

The Castle House, 148m south-west of the development site, is a 15th-/17th-century Grade II timber-framed house with Grade II listed late 18th-century brick garden wall (NHLE 1239249-1239250). Beyond Castle House is Dedham Heath, shown on Chapman & André's map of 1777 (MCC9168).

Fields immediately to the north-east of the development contain cropmarks including a double-ditched trackway and a rectangular enclosure cut by the road (MCC9073). Excavations in these fields in 1959 revealed a Bronze Age ring-ditch (MCC9071) and early Roman finds from the rectangular enclosure (MCC9072).

4 Aim

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to excavate and record any archaeological deposits exposed by the groundworks.

5 Results (Figs 2-3, Photographs 1-2, Appendix 1)

Foundations totalling 19.5m long by 0.5m wide and 0.75-1.0m deep were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The stratigraphy of the site was as follows:

- modern debris/crush from the demolition of the previous temporary store (L1, 0.35-0.55m thick) overlay
- made-ground (L2, 0.35-0.4m thick), which sealed
- natural clay (L3, at c 0.75m below current ground level).

Cut into natural were:

- stakehole F1, 0.13m in diameter and 0.12m deep, and
- probable tree-throw F2 with irregular base, c 1.6m wide and 0.3m deep.

6 Finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton and Laura Pooley

Recovered from L1 (finds no. 1) was a fragment of modern bottle glass. From L2 (finds no. 2) were three fragments of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile (82g), one sherd (3g) of early medieval sandy ware (fabric F13) dating to the 11th to the early 13th century, two fragments of animal bone (40g) from a large mammal and two unidentifiable lumps of iron (38g). All of the finds have been discarded.



Photograph 1 North side of foundation trench including stakehole F1, looking east



Photograph 2 South side of foundation trench including tree-throw F2, looking west

7 Conclusion

Archaeological monitoring revealed two undated features, a stakehole and tree-throw, with medieval/post-medieval finds recovered from made-ground L2.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks the homeowner for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by M Perou. Figures were prepared by L Pooley and E Holloway. The project was monitored for CBCPS by Dr Simon Wood.

9 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

- | | | |
|-------------|-------|--|
| CAT | 2022 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CBCAA | 2022 | <i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at Knights Manor, East lane, Dedham</i> , by S Wood |
| CifA | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> . Revised June 2020 |
| CifA | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . Updated Oct 2020 |
| CifA | 2014c | <i>Code of Conduct</i> . Revised Oct 2021 |
| Cotter, J P | 2000 | <i>CAR Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> . Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd. |
| Gurney, D | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian |

| | | |
|------------------|------|---|
| Historic England | 2016 | Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14) |
| Medlycott, M | 2011 | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24) |
| MHCLG | 2019 | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. |

10 Abbreviations and glossary

| | |
|---------------|---|
| CAT | Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| CBC | Colchester Borough Council |
| CBCAA | Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor |
| CBCPS | Colchester Borough Council Planning Services |
| CHER | Colchester Historic Environment Record |
| CIfA | Chartered Institute for Archaeologists |
| context | specific location of finds on an archaeological site |
| feature (F) | an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts' |
| layer (L) | distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material |
| medieval | period from AD 1066 to c 1500 |
| modern | period from c AD 1800 to the present |
| natural | geological deposit undisturbed by human activity |
| NGR | National Grid Reference |
| OASIS | Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological Investigation S , http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main |
| post-medieval | from c AD 1500 to c 1800 |
| section | (abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s |
| ws | written scheme of investigation |

11 Contents of archive

Finds: None retained

Digital record:

- The report (CAT Report 1819)
- CBC evaluation brief, written scheme of investigation
- Scans of original site date (sections)
- Site digital photographs and log
- Site data
- Graphic files
- Survey data

12 Archive deposition

The archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with the Archaeological Data Service.

Distribution list

The homeowner

Dr Simon Wood, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

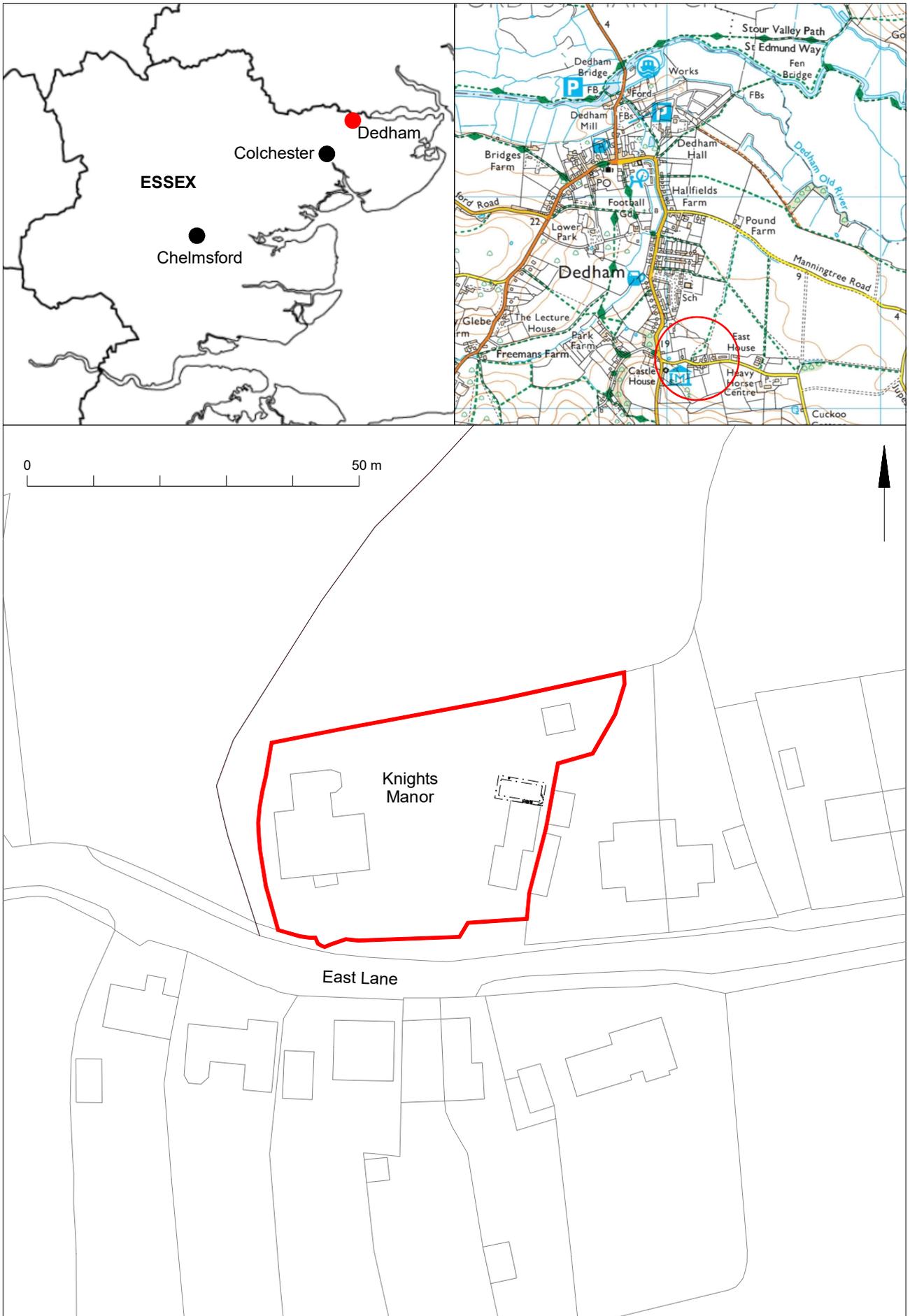
tel.: 01206 501785

email: lp@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 05/07/2022

Appendix 1 Context list

| Context | Finds no. | Identification | Description | Date |
|---------|-----------|-----------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| L1 | 1 | Demolition debris/ crush | L1a: Loose, friable, dry dark brown silty-clay with lots of modern inclusions. L1b: Firm, moist, medium yellow-brown clay with same modern inclusions as L1a. | Modern |
| L2 | 2 | Made-ground | Firm, moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal inclusions | Medieval/ post-medieval |
| L3 | - | Natural | Natural clay | Post-glacial |
| | | | | |
| F1 | - | Stakehole | Firm, moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay | Undated |
| F2 | - | Tree-throw | Friable, moist, medium orange/grey silty-clay with charcoal inclusions | Undated |



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Fig 1 Site location.

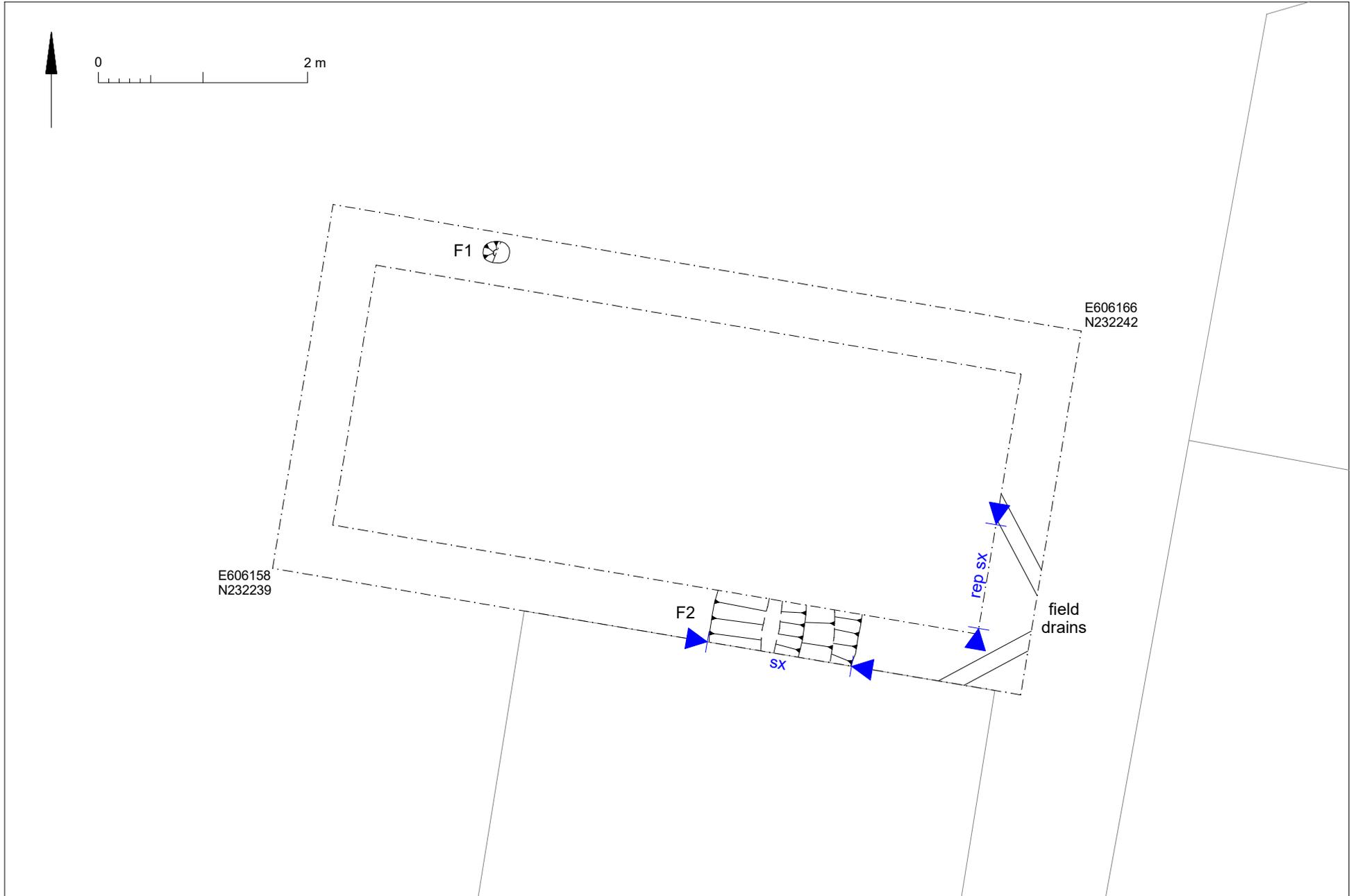


Fig 2 Results

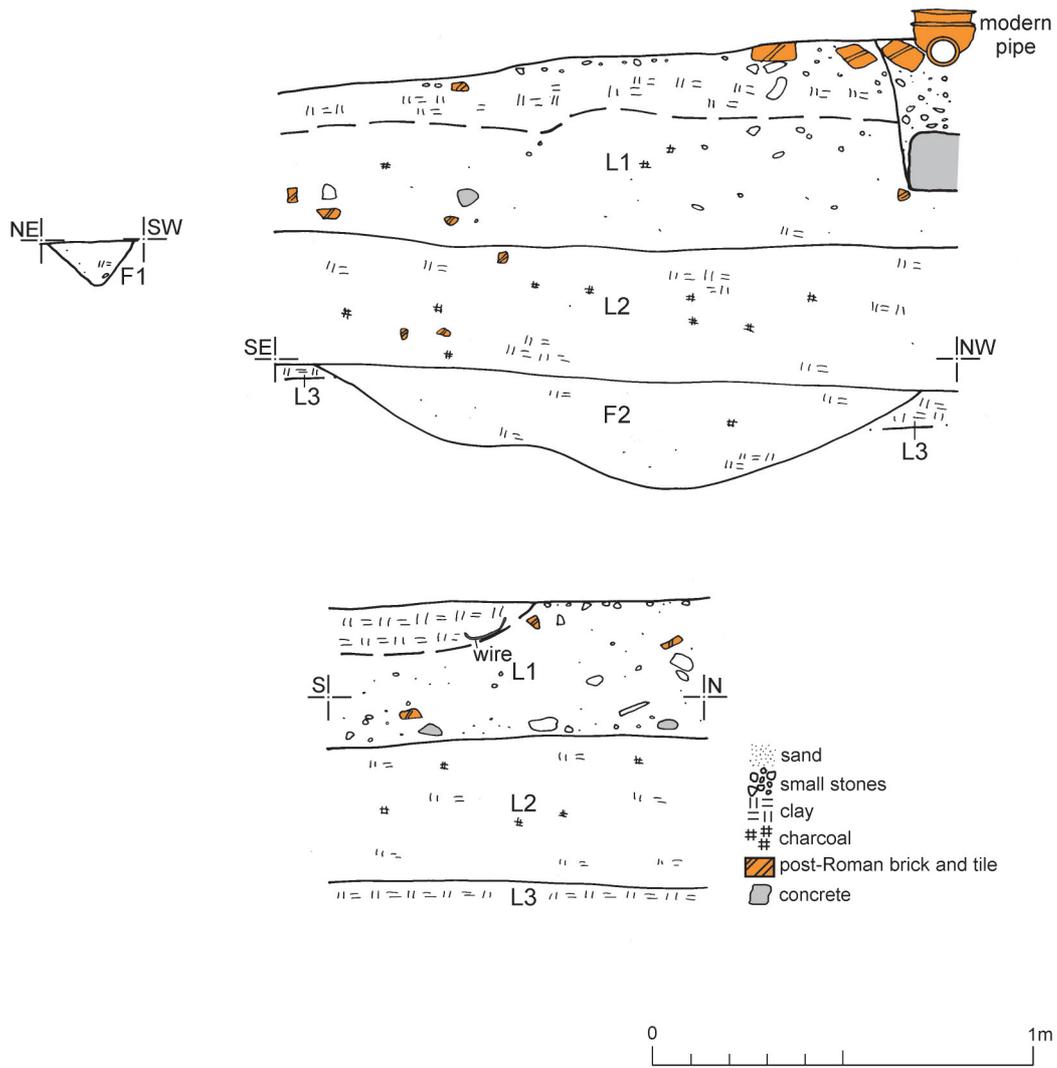


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

| | |
|--|---|
| Address: Knights Manor, East Lane, Dedham, Essex, CO7 6BB | |
| Parish: Dedham | District: Colchester |
| NGR: TM 06134 32234 (centre) | Site code: CAT project ref.: 2022/04c CHER ref.: ECC4721 OASIS ref.: colchest3-507816 |
| Type of work: Monitoring | Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| Date of work: 28th April 2022 | Size of area investigated: 0.15ha |
| Location of curating museum: Archaeological Data Service | Funding source: Homeowner |
| Further seasons anticipated? No | Related CHER/SMR number: NHLE 1273808; MCC3068, MCC3903 |
| Final report: CAT Report 1819 | |
| Periods represented: - | |
| Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Knights Manor, East Lane, Dedham during groundworks for an extension to the garage. Set within the grounds of an early 17th-century Grade II* listed timber-framed house, the only features uncovered were an undated stakehole and tree-throw. | |
| Previous summaries/reports: - | |
| CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood | |
| Keywords: - | Significance: - |
| Author of summary: Laura Pooley | Date of summary: July 2022 |

Summary for colchest3-507816

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| OASIS ID (UID) | colchest3-507816 |
| Project Name | Watching Brief at Knights Manor, East Lane, Colchester, Essex, CO7 6BB |
| Sitename | Knights Manor, East Lane, Colchester, Essex, CO7 6BB |
| Activity type | Watching Brief |
| Project Identifier(s) | 2022/04c |
| Planning Id | 211414 |
| Reason For Investigation | Planning: Post determination |
| Organisation Responsible for work | Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| Project Dates | 28-Apr-2022 - 28-Apr-2022 |
| Location | Knights Manor, East Lane, Colchester, Essex, CO7 6BB NGR : TM 06134 32234 LL : 51.9503846080077, 0.998172582211116 12 Fig : 606134,232234 |
| Administrative Areas | Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Dedham |
| Project Methodology | Monitoring of all groundworks |
| Project Results | Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Knights Manor, East Lane, Dedham during groundworks for an extension to the garage. Set within the grounds of an early 17th-century Grade II* listed timber-framed house, the only features uncovered were an undated stakehole and tree-throw. |
| Keywords | |
| Funder | |
| HER | Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD |
| Person Responsible for work | L, Pooley |
| HER Identifiers | HER Event No - ECC4721 |
| Archives | Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive; |